IX. *Farther Proofs of the Inſalubrity of marſhy Situations. In a Letter from the Rev. Dr.* Price *to the Rev. Dr.* Horſley.

DEAR SIR,

Redde, Jan. 13, 1774. DR. PRIESTLEY's paper, on the noxious effects of ſtagnant waters, read laſt Thurſday to the Royal Society, brought to my remembrance a table, exhibiting the rate of mortality in a pariſh ſituated among marſhes, which I had ſeen in Mr. MURET's Obſervations, publiſhed in the Memoirs of the Oeconomical Society at Bern, for 1766. I have ſince reviewed this table, and found that it affords a full confirmation of Dr. PRIESTLEY's aſſertions. This pariſh is a part of the diſtrict of Vaud, belonging to the canton of Bern, in Switzerland; and contains 169 families, and 696 inhabitants. Mr. MURET's table, of the rate of mortality in it, is formed from a regiſter of the ages, at which all died in it for 15 years. With this table he has alſo given tables, from like regiſters, of the rates of mortality in ſeven ſmall towns; in 36 country pariſhes and villages; in 16 pariſhes ſituated in the Alps; in 12 corn pariſhes, and in 18 vintage pariſhes.—From comparing theſe tables, it appears, that the

the probabilities of life are higheſt in the moſt hilly parts of the province, and loweſt in the marſhy pariſh juſt mentioned. The difference is indeed remarkable, as will appear from the following particulars. One half, of all born in the mountains, live to the age of 47. In the marſhy pariſh, one half live only to the age of 25. In the hills one in 20, of all that are born, live to 80. In the marſhy pariſh, only one in 52 reaches this age. In the hills, a perſon aged 40 has a chance, of 80 to 1, for living a year. In the marſhy pariſh, his chance for living a year is not 30 to 1.—In the hills, perſons aged 20, 30, and 40, have an even chance for living 41, 33, and 25 years reſpectively. In the fenny pariſh, perſons, at theſe ages, have an even chance of living only 30, 23, and 15 years.—In ſhort, it appears, that, though the probabilities of life, in all this country except this one pariſh, are much higher than in London; yet here, after 30, they are much lower. Before the age of 30, they are indeed higher in this pariſh; the reaſon of which muſt be, that the London air and cuſtoms are particularly noxious to children *.

I am ſenſible, that obſervations, for only 15 years, in one ſmall pariſh, do not afford as deciſive and ample an authority, in the preſent caſe, as there is reaſon to wiſh for; and that, therefore, the perfect exactneſs, of the particulars I have recited, cannot be depended on.—They are, however, ſuf-

* In London, one half of all that are born, die under 3 years of age. But this is not peculiar to London. In Berlin the ſame proportion dies under three; and at Vienna under two.

ficiently near the truth to demonſtrate, in general, the unhealthfulneſs of a marſhy ſituation, and as the regiſter from whence they are derived is the only one, in ſuch a ſituation, which I have ever met with, and Dr. ALEXANDER's experiments may lead ſome to very wrong concluſions on this ſubject; I could not help thinking, that there would be no impropriety, in ſending you the account, I have now given. If you think it of any importance, I ſhall be obliged to you for reading it to the Royal Society.

I cannot help taking this opportunity to add my wiſhes, that ſuch regiſters of mortality, as thoſe publiſhed by Mr. MURET, were eſtabliſhed in every part of this kingdom. We might then determine immediately every ſuch queſtion, as that which has occaſioned this letter; and know certainly, what influence different airs and different ſituations have on the duration of life. Two ingenious phyſicians, Dr. PERCIVAL at Mancheſter, and Dr. HAYGARTH at Cheſter, have lately, with much zeal, promoted inſtitutions of this kind; and a great deal of uſeful information may be expected, from the accurate and comprehenſive regiſters of mortality, which, under their direction, have been eſtabliſhed in theſe towns. But the inſtruction ariſing from theſe eſtabliſhments cannot be complete, till they become univerſal.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient

and humble Servant,

Newington Green,
Dec. 21, 1773.

RICHARD PRICE.